



# **Rio Arriba County Detention Center (RACDC) POLICY 064: PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES**

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The Rio Arriba County Detention Facility has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that inmates have access to psychiatric services necessary for maintaining good mental health. Psychiatric services may be provided by any of the local clinics offering such service. The Rio Arriba County Detention facility shall have procedures for accessing psychiatric services for inmates needing it or requesting it.

## **Procedure:**

1. When an inmate's behavior indicates a need for psychiatric services, or when a request for said services is made, the detention staff shall make an appointment for the service.
2. If the situation is emergency in nature, racdc 061(Emergency Medical Services) shall be applied.
3. If the situation is not of emergency status, then racdc 062(Non-emergency Medical Services) shall apply.
4. If an inmate behavior illustrates suicidal tendencies, the administration shall be notified immediately.
5. Administration shall contact mental health professionals to evaluate the inmate as soon as possible.
6. The inmate displaying suicidal thoughts shall be place on a 15-minute or less watch (suicide watch).
7. No employee or official of Rio Arriba County shall refuse or hinder an inmate's access to psychiatric services.
8. Detention personnel shall not release any information on psychiatric inmates unless written approval is acquired from the inmate.
9. Whenever possible, mental health professionals should do on-site psychiatric services.
10. Any inmate evaluated by mental health professionals and still a suicide risk shall be placed in isolation and all material that could be used for self-harm will be removed from his possession and the inmate will be placed on constant supervision.



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11. Every effort will be made to contact Las Vegas Medical Center to try to have inmate placed at the State Hospital.

## Emergency Psychiatric Services

### General Information.

1. Detention officers shall immediately notify mental health personnel if an inmate:  
  
Appears to be disoriented, (does not know where he/she is at, doesn't know the time and date, or doesn't know what is happening around him/her).
2. Displays uncontrollable or inappropriate behavior such as uncontrollable crying, anger, hallucinating, or talking to him/her self.
3. Is seriously depressed and having suicidal thoughts.
4. Suicidal inmates shall be on constant supervision until evaluated by mental health professionals.
5. Suicidal inmates shall be stripped of any items that could be used for self-harm.
6. If the need for hospitalization arises the hospital procedures shall be implemented.
7. Proper documentation will be recorded on all psychiatric visits.